



Date: September 15, 2004
To: Inter-Regional Partnership
From: IRP Staff
RE: Possible IRP Projects, 2004/2005

Background

The IRP is at a crossroads. Funding availability is limited, the Partnership has been relatively inactive since the completion of the Jobs/Housing Balance Pilot Program and participation by other stakeholders has diminished over time. Staff is coming to the Partnership to request consideration of future work activities that have the potential to infuse life and action into the IRP.

As previously reported to the IRP, current funding is limited to holding quarterly meetings with little available funds for further study or action by the Partnership. In the recent past, the Partnership directed staff to send a fundraising letter to a wide variety of agencies and other potential funders. Limited response has been received; however, CalTrans has suggested that the Partnership consider applying for a Community Planning Grant for the '05-'06 fiscal year.

Potential Projects

The Partnership is well positioned to focus a proposal on additional IRP work. Several projects that the IRP have discussed in the past have good potential for funding. Staff is requesting that the IRP consider the following list of potential projects and direct staff to develop a grant proposal to forward to CalTrans for funding.

It should be noted that CalTrans grant funding is often contingent upon a clearly developed proposal that includes products that could be used or modeled in other regions. In addition, any proposal should include an element of public outreach. Staff is prepared to develop proposals that would accomplish both of these requirements. The IRP would be committing to products and public engagement as a part of the contractual process, if a grant was made.

- 1) **Inter-Regional Projections:** In the Summer of 2003, the Partnership compiled projections for the five county IRP area that detailed jobs, population and household growth, as well as jobs/housing balance relationships. This document could be updated to reflect current data and could also form the basis for additional study in several areas including transportation and land use relationships, housing availability and affordability, economic development and job placement.

Products: Updated IRP Projections Document
Maps of existing and future "urban footprint" based on land use data

- 2) **Growth Policies:** Much of what the IRP supports and much of its work has based upon a set of assumptions about growth and its impact on the physical environment. The IRP may wish to consider adopting a formal set of policies that addresses these issues, namely, open space and agricultural land preservation, transportation, land use, the environment, air quality, affordable housing, etc. These policies, once drafted, could be advocated by the IRP for support from each jurisdiction in the IRP. They could then serve as the basis for development and transportation decisions at the local level.

Products: A set of growth management related policies for adoption.

Recommended Action

Staff has suggested two potential projects from which a proposal can be formulated. CalTrans has an October 15th deadline for receiving proposals from interested parties such as the IRP. It is requested that the Partnership members direct staff to develop and submit a proposal for funding on one of these two projects.